

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS



## 热烈庆祝中国工会第十次代表大会召开

- New Tasks for Trade Unions
- Strive for Actual National Equality
- The World Communication Year in China



# LETTERS

## "De-Maoification" and Pedlars

After receiving *Beijing Review*, issue No. 36, I first read the article in the column "Notes From the Editors" ["Myth of de-Maoification shattered"]. I found that the article had answered in advance the expositions in the letter I am writing.

I have never believed in "de-Maoification" because I have never thought that China will turn to de-Maoification. Chairman Mao fought all his life for the rejuvenation of his motherland and inspired comrades by his staunch determination and his convictions regarding resisting the internal and external enemies. We cannot ignore the role of a man like him in history.

However, after the downfall of the gang of four, there were certain trends in China. These led those who are friendly to China to suspect, and others to hope, that there would be a great political change in China. The worry has now gradually diminished. Comrade An Zhiguo's article in "Notes From the Editors" of the above-mentioned issue was written for this purpose.

I toured your country several weeks ago and found that two dangerous trends could develop in China. First, the drive towards hankering after profits was clear-

ly growing. I visited places in China for a month, from Beijing to Guilin and from Chengdu to Shanghai. It is a pity that wherever I went I saw that this trend, which is entirely capitalist in nature, was growing. This situation existed in both the cities and the rural areas. The free market (urban or rural fair) has increased the welfare of the buyers and sellers, but it has also made things convenient for the operations of those who seek profits, particularly when people have the freedom to vary prices. People are not saints, and it is natural that pedlars will be lured to seek maximum gains under these circumstances.

Another question is that of some children who sell inferior goods. The prices of the small commodities and fruit sold by these children are especially high (in Guilin, the price for bananas was 4.5 yuan for half a kilo). What is more, the stubbornness of these children who have jacked up prices unfortunately reminds people of the manners of the young pedlars in Cairo and Bangkok. I saw this situation mainly in the rural areas, with fewer instances in big cities because supervision is undoubtedly effective there. I think if you imbue children with the drive to seek after money, how can they become good Communists when they grow up?

Please excuse me for my talking about these things frankly. I really have a deep love for China.

Aresu

Hoeilaart, Belgium

## Free Market Management

Regarding the businesses run by individuals, I would like to write about my impressions during my visit to China last August. The individual photographers put their licences in conspicuous places, and samples of pictures were displayed on wooden frames in front of their stalls. But in the free markets I did not see any pedlars put up their licences. I think that they should be put in the places where the customers can see them. There was an ample supply of goods and a lot of people at the free markets. If the individual traders are required to put up their licences, it will be easy to supervise.

A large quantity of commodities sold at the free markets were bought from wholesalers. The ample supply of goods, whether in the state-owned department stores or at the free markets, was an indication of China's economic growth. However, prices at the free markets were indeed high. The free markets will be still better received by the people if you stock them with goods in proper ways and sell them at reasonable prices.

In addition, the overall standard of sanitation in the shops which I visited has improved greatly, and I came away with a good impression.

Ryoichi Arai

Kitakyushu, Japan

## Joyful Sparks

The joy of a visit by Zhu Boru sparkles in your cover photo of issue No. 32. You would agree that photographer Zhang Bingfa has captured a bright moment in today's China. The best photo of the year! The faces of those young fellows tell a lot about China's youth programmes. But success comes not only from the state's planning; it takes people like Zhu Boru to bring the best out of the young. I have enjoyed many long looks at the folks in the photo, and I believe I could hear their laughter. It seems a magic moment, and Zhu Boru's magic touch must have brought constant joy and encouragement to many other people. Thank you for showing the world such a nice photo, and I look forward to seeing many more.

Yu Jiunn Shang

Albuquerque, NM, USA

## Chinese Documents

### The First Session of the Sixth National People's Congress

- Report on Government Work
- Report on 1983 Plan for Development
- Report on 1982 Final State Accounts
- New Government Leadership

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### Union Representatives Meet

The 10th National Congress of Chinese Trade Unions, which opened in Beijing on October 18, is still in session when *Beijing Review* goes into print. In his speech to the congress, State President Li Xiannian called on workers to study hard and become more competent in doing their part in the modernization drive. Trade union leader Ni Zhifu gave a work report at the session (p. 5).

### Opposing Ideological Pollution

Basing himself on Deng Xiaoping's instructions on the issue of spiritual pollution, Wang Zhen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, urged Party theoreticians to wage a courageous struggle against bourgeois liberalism (p. 7).

### Work on Minority Nationalities

In an exclusive interview with a *Beijing Review* correspondent, the Minister in Charge of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission explains the work of national minorities—the main tasks ahead, the meaning of actual national equality and the achievements made in the last few years (p. 14).

### Post and Telecommunications in China

In his recent interview with our correspondent, Minister Wen Minsheng discussed the activities China has organized to mark the current World Communications Year, and talked about the present state, major problems and future development of China's post and telecommunications services (p. 18).

### Conference on Archaeology

At the Seminar on Archaeological Studies in Asia, Dr. Xia Nai, 73, gave a general overview of China's archaeological work. Speeches of participants from nine Asian UNESCO members are highlighted (p. 23).

### New Community in Central Africa

The recently established Economic Community of Central African States will serve to promote both joint economic development in the region, and overall South-South co-operation. It is another important step along the road to establishing a new international economic order (p. 10).



热烈庆祝中国工会第十次代表大会召开

Celebrating the convocation  
of the 10th National Trade  
Union Congress.  
by Yu Minghai



## NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

### Strengthening unity among nationalities

Recently, the governments of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province, where minority nationalities live in compact communities, convened conferences to commend organizations and individuals for their outstanding work in promoting unity between the different nationalities. Eleven provinces and autonomous regions have held such meetings since the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region made the first move last year.

Seriously impaired during the "cultural revolution" (1966-76), the relations between China's various nationalities have been vastly improved since the Third Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee held in 1978. People who were unjustly and wrongly charged have been exonerated, many problems left from the past have been solved and unity between the nationalities has been greatly strengthened. Large numbers of people have distinguished themselves in implementing the Party and state policies towards and promoting unity between nationalities. With their fine deeds, they have set an example for many others.

Experience has also been gained in settling ethnic disputes left over from the "cultural revolution." People have at least two things in this process. First, all factors detrimental to unity between the various nationalities should be removed. Second, when problems arise, the two disagreeing

parties should be persuaded to come together for friendly discussions. While major issues should be solved according to related principles and policies, both parties should be ready to understand and accommodate each other on minor matters and do their best to prevent the contradiction from intensifying.

The people of all nationalities in China share the same fundamental interests. But due to the difference in customs and habits, psychology and religious beliefs, and due to the influence of big-nationality chauvinism (especially Han chauvinism) and narrow-minded local nationalism, there are still problems in the relations between the nationalities. But because these are problems existing among the people, they will not affect the unity between the people if they are properly handled.

A case in point is the Kashi Prefecture in Xinjiang. In October 1981, a young Han peasant killed a fellow peasant of Uygur nationality during a furious quarrel over the location of a sewer he was digging. Then at the instigation of a few minority people, some thugs beat two Hans to death.

The murderers were punished according to law. And the regional authorities conducted education among the local cadres and people, telling them the reasons why people of different nationalities should trust, respect, support, learn from and make allowances for each other. The satisfactory handling of this incident has helped improve

the relationship and unity between the Hans and Uygurs. As a matter of fact, the strong unity between people of various nationalities in Xinjiang has contributed greatly to the remarkable progress the region has made in these past few years.

The policy of regional national autonomy has also been earnestly implemented in recent years. The Constitution adopted in 1982 has invested these areas with even more autonomy. Thanks to energetic efforts made in training and promoting cadres of minority origin, the chairmen in the nation's five autonomous regional governments and heads of the 30 autonomous prefectural (league) governments and 76 autonomous county (banner) governments are mostly from among minority people.

Fifty-six nationalities make China what it is today—a unified socialist country. Their unity, equality and common prosperity are therefore vital to the future of the state. While strengthening unity between the nationalities, the state attaches great importance to economic development in areas inhabited by minority peoples.

In the last few years, China has instituted a series of new economic policies in these areas. These include a reduction of and exemption from taxes and quotas of goods to be purchased by the state, an increase in subsidies, and the development of co-operation with more economically developed areas in economic, technical and intellectual fields. All these measures have effectively speeded up economic development among the minority nationalities and put the unity of the nation on a more solid footing.

—Political Editor An Zhiguo



## 10th National Trade Union Congress

The 10th National Congress of Chinese Trade Unions is currently meeting in Beijing to elect new leaders and revise its constitution, discuss the tasks ahead for the next five years, and sum up achievements made in union work since the ninth national congress in 1978.

The 2,326 participants, representing 110 million Chinese workers and staff, attended the October 18 opening session and heard messages of greetings from Party and state leaders Hu Yaobang, Deng Xiaoping, Zhao Ziyang, Li Xiannian, Chen Yun, Peng Zhen and Deng Yingchao.

Li Xiannian, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Pres-

ident of the People's Republic of China, spoke on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council.

He called on Chinese workers to raise their political, ideological, scientific and educational levels, so as to be better able to develop the material, cultural and ethical wealth of China's socialist society.

Li Xiannian said the Chinese workers' movement has entered a new stage of development, during which its fundamental task is to quadruple the annual value of gross industrial and agricultural production by the end of the century. Workers must build China into a modern, culturally advanced and highly democratic socialist country.

"Trade unions must make persistent efforts to give workers education in the basic theories of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought, and in patriotism, collectivism, socialism and communism," he said.

He also urged trade unions to step up their day-to-day ideological and political work among the workers so as to enable them to resist and overcome the corrosion and contamination of bourgeois ideology and other incorrect ideas.

Li Xiannian called on the workers to study diligently to acquire essential scientific and technical knowledge, become more competent at

their jobs and be better managers, so that they can do their full part in modernized production and management.

He noted that the trade unions should truly represent and safeguard the workers' interests and wage resolute struggles against any deeds that harm these interests.

### Work Report

Ni Zhifu, President of the Ninth Executive Committee of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, reported to the congress on the work of this committee.

While speaking about the achievements in trade union work during the past five years, Ni Zhifu said by the end of 1982 there were 430,000 grass-roots trade union organizations with 73.31 million members.

"At present, there are 11 million young and old model workers throughout the country," he said. "The working class has proved itself to be the main force making the Chinese nation strong. It is the leading class in the country."

He added that the workers now create 70 per cent of China's total product of society and provide 80 per cent of the state's revenue.

By the end of 1982, workers' congresses had been set up in nearly half of the nation's 400,000 enterprises, and factory directors or company managers had been elected by workers and staff in many units. The workers' congress has become the basic form through which the workers and staff exercise their democratic rights, he noted.

The All-China Federation of



The representatives listening to Li Xiannian's speech.





Ni Zhifu (second from right) in group discussion with the Beijing delegation.

Trade Unions has established friendly ties with trade union organizations in more than 120 countries and regions. Through exchanges and other activities, the mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and foreign trade union organizations have been promoted. The All-China Federation of Trade Unions also resumed its activities in the International Labour Organization this year, and will continue efforts to develop friendly relations with trade union organizations in various countries in the future, Ni said.

He listed the major tasks ahead for the trade unions as follows:

- (1) Help the workers enhance their political consciousness and clearly understand their historical role and responsibilities in the new period of socialist construction.
- (2) Help the workers increase their general knowledge through study and acquisition of job skills.
- (3) Continue to establish and improve the workers' congress system, to promote democratic management and fight against bureaucracy.
- (4) Encourage the workers' communist labour attitude,

which puts the modernization of the country before personal loss and gain.

(5) Encourage more workers and collectives to become models, especially in improving economic results.

Ni Zhifu emphasized that the trade unions must do more good things for the workers and staff so as to stimulate their enthusiasm. They must safeguard the legitimate rights of the workers and staff, actively support what is right and oppose what is wrong, and play a posi-

tive role in political affairs and social life. They must also gear their efforts to the needs of the grass-roots workers and staff members, maintain close ties with the masses and pay due attention to their opinions and needs.

He said that these things were demands the Party Central Committee had set on the trade unions. They should also form the major guidelines for the reform of the trade union organizations.

In all, 1,998 deputies, including trade union workers, model workers, returned overseas Chinese union members and trade union representatives from joint ventures set up with Chinese and foreign investments, attended the 12-day meeting. Three hundred twenty-eight special representatives were also invited, including veteran trade union workers who have made outstanding contributions to union work, retired workers, individual labourers and their family members, and representatives from Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao).

## Opposing ideological pollution

Wang Zhen, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party Central Committee, urged the Party theoreticians to have a clear-cut stand and wage a courageous struggle against bourgeois liberalism.

Addressing a national meeting held in Nanjing on October 23, and attended by researchers and educators in scientific socialism, Wang Zhen said that at the recent Second Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee, Comrade Deng Xiaoping raised the issue of spiritual pollution on the ideological front.

Deng Xiaoping also said that the emphasis in solving current problems in this field is to correct the Right tendency and that of weak and slack leadership.

Wang Zhen said that the Party theoreticians should have a clear understanding of the current situation on the ideological and theoretical front.

After affirming the work done by the theoreticians, Wang Zhen said that a few people on the ideological and theoretical front had spread in publications and classrooms many erroneous theories and viewpoints which



run counter to the fundamentals of Marxism and the four cardinal principles.

On the question of scientific socialism, he said some people had said that China is not a socialist country yet. Some had spread the concept of "alienation in socialism," asserting that "alienation" existed in a socialist society, not only in ideological but in political and economic fields. Some others had gone even farther by saying that "the root of alienation lies in the socialist system itself."

Wang Zhen pointed out that these viewpoints are diametrically opposed to the Marxist theory with regard to scientific socialism and are, in essence, sowing distrust in the cause of socialism and communism and

the Communist Party as well.

Faced with such challenges, he went on, the theoreticians must hold aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism, and the banner of socialism and communism, and take an active part in criticizing and fighting the two erroneous viewpoints.

Wang Zhen also criticized some people in the theoretical circles who had raised a hue and cry the moment criticism was voiced.

He pointed out that it is a protracted task to resist the spiritual pollution from the bourgeois ideology and ideologies of other exploiting classes and undo its ill effects.

He called for building a strong contingent of Marxist theoreticians competent for this task.

ganization, therefore, has become vital to quickly reversing this situation.

To admonish those who do not take this work seriously, *Renmin Ribao* published an editorial in early October, saying we should guard against formalism during this reorganization. Efforts should be made to raise the quality of the workers and staff and improve management of the enterprises, it said.

The editorial quoted a remark made by Deng Xiaoping in March 1978, in which he said, "formalism, which pursues superficial achievements but neglects actual results, efficiency, quality, quantity and cost of production, must be checked." The editorial also criticized Liaoning Province's Fushun Steelworks for doing its reorganization work routinely but without care for its quality.

The Fushun Steelworks used to be an advanced unit among the country's metallurgical enterprises. In the first half of this year, it increased by 50 per cent both its output and its sales volume, compared with the same period of last year. But the same six months also saw a decrease of more than 50 per cent in its profits. Investigation showed this was caused by poor management. The factory's leadership, however, had covered up facts and made a false report of figures, cheating the authorities into giving them certificate of inspection for the reorganization.

The Liaoning provincial government recently ordered the factory to complete its reorganization in three months, or else it would withdraw the certificate of inspection and remove the factory's chief leaders from their posts.

## Steel enterprises after reorganization

By September, 152 of China's iron and steel enterprises had reaped the economic rewards made possible by their complete reorganization, which began in early 1982.

Seventy-three enterprises, including the country's major iron and steel centres such as the Anshan Iron and Steel Complex, the Shoudu Iron and Steel Company, have had their reorganization accepted by the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, and have improved in various economic and technical indices. Compared with the same period last year, iron and steel enterprises throughout the country registered a 9.28 per cent increase in the total value of their output and a 17.6 per cent increase in profits in the

first half of this year.

The Shoudu Iron and Steel Company, one of the advanced units, has done exceedingly well in this reorganization. The economic responsibility system which it introduced last year has moved along management reforms and spurred its technological transformation. The company had a 21.36 per cent increase in its profits during the first nine months of this year.

China now has hundreds of thousands of industrial enterprises, including more than 1,000 large and medium-sized key enterprises. Problems of weak leadership, backward technology and management and poor economic results plague many of these enterprises. Many have failed to equal their best historical records in technical and economic indices, and lag far behind advanced world levels. All-round reor-



## Sino-Japanese treaty marked in Beijing

More than 1,000 Chinese and Japanese attended a reception on Oct. 22 in Beijing to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

Deng Yingchao, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Honorary President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, was present.

Wang Zhen, Honorary President of the China-Japan Friendship Association, said in his toast that tremendous progress had been made in friendly exchanges and co-operation between the two countries in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical spheres, as well as in personal contacts.

He attributed this to the consistent efforts of both peoples and governments.

In the current turbulent international situation, Wang Zhen said, the China-Japan treaty was exercising an increasingly important and positive influence. It is in the interests of both peoples and conducive to peace and stability in Asia and the world to expand friendship and co-operation between China and Japan.

Tokuma Utsunomiya spoke at the reception on behalf of the visiting Japanese delegation, composed of leading members of six Japanese friendship organizations.

He said that the organizations were responsible for uniting political, economic and cultural figures as well as ordinary people to promote friendly exchanges, unity and co-operation.

The treaty had been strictly implemented because of the unity and co-operation of both governments and peoples over the past few years.

Utsunomiya said, "We value highly the great contributions to peace in Asia and the world which the friendly relations and co-operation established by the treaty have made.

"We are willing to work hard together with our Chinese friends to pass on the spirit of the treaty from generation to generation."

President Li Xiannian said friendly relations between China and Japan have a powerful foundation among the people, when he met with the Japanese friends on Oct. 23.

There is no conflict of basic interests between the two countries, he said. "Whenever a problem crops up, we should settle it through consultation between us."

Li said Japan has achieved rapid economic development and China will learn from it. But, he noted, "Our co-operation must be based on equality, mutual benefit, supplying to each other's needs and practicability."

## Wu Xueqian visits Turkey and Oman

State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian returned to Beijing on Oct. 24 after attending the 38th Session of the UN General Assembly and visiting Canada, the United States, Turkey and the Sultanate of Oman.

### In Turkey

China and Turkey share "identical or similar viewpoints on many important issues," said

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian near the close of his successful four-day goodwill visit to Turkey. Wu also announced that President Li Xiannian will visit Turkey in the first half of next year.

During his stay, Wu had talks with his Turkish counterpart, Ilter Turkmen, and met with President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Bulend Ulusu on separate occasions.

Wu and Turkmen agreed that the viewpoints of the two countries on international issues are basically identical. They urged the ending of foreign military occupation of Afghanistan and Kampuchea, denounced the Israeli policy of aggression and expansion, and expressed their hope that the Arab countries would strengthen their solidarity to recover all the land occupied by Israel. They supported the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their national rights.

They also expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between their two countries in recent years and agreed to strengthen these relations, especially in politics, economy, trade and culture.

Wu, speaking at a news conference in Ankara on Oct. 18, said both China and Turkey "want to strengthen their solidarity and maintain vigilance against the menace of Soviet hegemonism."

He reaffirmed that the Chinese Government wishes to improve its relations with the Soviet Union, noting there has been an improvement. But, he said, there is still a great distance to go to normalization.

Without the removal of three major obstacles, "China will always suffer menace from the Soviet Union," Wu said. These



obstacles are the Soviet support of Viet Nam's invasion of Kampuchea, Soviet aggression against Afghanistan, and the large number of Soviet troops stationed along the Sino-Soviet border and in the People's Republic of Mongolia.

Wu described the disarmament talks in Geneva as a manifestation of the tension in East-West relations. On the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, he pointed out that big differences still existed between the United States and the Soviet Union, which are still continuing their arms race. He did not see "any positive results" from the talks if the two sides are not sincere about disarmament.

Wu also expressed China's sympathy with and its support for the peace movements in Western Europe, Canada and the United States which are demanding nuclear disarmament and opposing the deployment of nuclear missiles.

Wu Xueqian attributed the lack of a settlement of the Middle East problem in more than 30 years to "Israeli aggression and expansion, supported by the United States.

"We hope Palestine and the other Arab countries and their peoples will strengthen their solidarity in the struggle against Israeli aggression and expansion. It is the basic way to solve the Middle East problem."

Wu expressed the Chinese Government's concern over the Iraq-Iran war, which he called "disadvantageous to the peace in the Middle East and in the world. China wishes the ending of this war as early as possible."

He also hoped the Cyprus

problem would be solved through peaceful negotiations between the two communities in Cyprus, and the Turkish-Greek disputes be solved through peaceful negotiations.

### In Oman

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian was received by Sultan Qabus bin Said of Oman on Oct. 22 during his official three-day goodwill visit to the Gulf state.

Wu presented Sultan Qabus with a letter from President Li Xiannian inviting the Sultan to visit China. Sultan Qabus accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Wu had talks with Yousuf al-Alawi Abdullah, Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. During their talks, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the development of friendly relations between the two countries and wished for widespread co-operation in all fields. They also discussed the international and Gulf situations, the Iraq-Iran war and the Middle East problem. They found they shared similar views on several current world issues.

Wu said at a news conference on Oct. 20 that although China is far away from the Gulf region, it is very much concerned about the situation there. "China hopes the Iraq-Iran war will stop as soon as possible," he said.

## The latest round of Xianggang talks

The fifth round of the second stage of the Sino-British talks on the Xianggang (Hongkong) issue was held in Beijing on Oct. 19 and 20.

Vice-Foreign Minister Yao Guang headed the Chinese government delegation and Ambassador Percy Cradock headed the British government delegation at the talks.

A spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry described the talks as "useful and constructive." He said the next round will be held on Nov. 14 and 15 in Beijing.

## Cuban Minister pays visit to China

Sino-Cuban trade, which started in the early 1960s, has developed rapidly in the past two years, and in 1983 the total volume of trade between the two countries has more than doubled from 1978, said Chen Muhua, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, at a banquet in honour of Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuba's Minister of External Trade, on Oct. 19.

Cabrisas said his visit provides an opportunity to open up new prospects for developing trade between the two countries.

The total volume of trade between the two countries in 1983 is estimated at 173 million pounds (about US\$218.3 million). Cuba, he added, has imported various products from China and has become the No. 1 sugar supplier to China.

Chen and Cabrisas held talks on Oct. 19, at which they expressed satisfaction with the progress of Sino-Cuban trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in the past 20-odd years, and exchanged views on expanding trade between the two countries.



**Libreville****Central African community set up**

**T**HE heads and representatives of 10 Central African countries have signed an agreement on the creation of the Economic Community of Central African States at a summit conference in Libreville, Gabon, which was held on Oct. 17 and 18. This is seen as a major step towards unity, co-operation and joint development between the Central African countries.

Under the agreement, the aim of the economic community is to promote co-operation and co-ordination among member states in various economic and social fields. It will eliminate tariffs between them and standardize their tariffs on imports from outside the region. The member states will formulate co-ordinated foreign trade policies towards non-members and gradually remove the obstacles to the movement of property, labour and capital within the member states. A co-operation and development fund will be set up.

The community has established some institutions, including a ministers' council, a court, a general secretariat and an advisory council. The location of the headquarters and the general secretariat will be decided upon after the ratification of the agreement by the member states' legislative bodies.

**Common Desire**

Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the

Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad and Zaire have joined the economic community, and Angola will participate as an observer. These 10 countries have an area of more than 5 million square kilometres, a population of about 60 million, and are rich in national resources. But as a result of past colonial rule, the economies of these countries are not yet well developed. The countries recognize that regional economic co-operation and taking the road of collective self-reliance are important routes to speeding up economic development.

The economic community is seen as a powerful answer to the developed countries, which have persisted in their unequal relations with third world countries, shifting economic crisis to other countries.

In recent years the Central African countries have been burdened with heavy debts because of the drastic price drop of raw materials as a result of Western countries shifting the burden of their economic crisis on to them. It is not yet certain when North-South negotiations will take place. The Central African countries, however, like many developing countries, recognize that only by joining forces can they safeguard their own interests. Therefore, these countries issued the Declaration of Libreville in December 1981, expressing the desire for the establishment of an economic community. Now they have signed the agreement on its creation. This is expected to promote the development of South-South co-operation and the establishment of a new international economic order.

This proves that South-South co-operation is full of vigour. Although the economic community may meet with obstacles and difficulties on the road ahead, its goals coincide with the common interests and desires of the member countries. Therefore, it has a bright future ahead.

—Ren Yan

**United Nations****Kampuchea's seat safeguarded**

**W**ITHOUT a vote, the 38th Session of the United Nations General Assembly approved on Oct. 20 the report of the Credentials Committee, which confirms the credentials of all representatives to the current session including those of Democratic Kampuchea.

This is the first time this has happened since Viet Nam invaded Kampuchea in 1979, and shows that the Kampuchean people's just struggle against the Vietnamese invaders has been widely supported by the international community. It also indicates that the Vietnamese aggressors are bogged down in an awkward position of isolation.

Since it launched its invasion, Viet Nam, in an attempt to legalize its aggression, has been trying to deprive Kampuchea of its legitimate seat at the UN and replace it with the Heng Samrin puppet regime. However, four successive UN General Assembly sessions have adopted resolutions asking Viet



Nam to completely withdraw its troops from Kampuchea, with support growing from 71 votes in the 34th session in 1979 to 90 votes in the 37th session in 1982.

Under such circumstances, the Vietnamese authorities have had to change their tactics to cover up their difficult predicament. On the eve of the current session of the UN General Assembly, Viet Nam's diplomatic officials were sent to Latin American and European countries to seek their support for Viet Nam's stand on the Kampuchean question. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach even sent a letter to some UN member countries, trying to defend his country's aggressive stand. The letter says that Viet Nam has the "right" to overthrow the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and proposes to keep Kampuchea's seat empty in the United Nations.

As the 38th session opened, Nguyen Co Thach put forward a proposal to the ASEAN states, asking them to cancel their demand for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea in exchange for a Vietnamese promise to concede the UN seat to Democratic Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese deal was rejected by the ASEAN countries. The Vietnamese authorities now feel incapable of action and dare not put forward any other amendment concerning Kampuchea's legitimate seat.

The safeguarding of Kampuchea's seat shows that the forces represented by the majority of member countries that uphold justice and the principles of defending international relationships and the Charter of the United Nations are irresistible.

It also shows that with the support and sympathy of the

peace-loving people all over the world, the Kampuchean people's just cause against Vietnamese aggression will certainly end in victory and the ag-

gressive and expansionist Vietnamese authorities are doomed to failure.

— "Renmin Ribao" Commentator (Oct. 23.)

## The Gulf

# Tension over Iraq's French jets

**D**ARK clouds have been gathering over the Strait of Hormuz in recent days as a result of Iraq's purchase of five French Super-Etendard jets, capable of destroying Iran's vital oil installations.

Iran has warned that it would block the Strait of Hormuz if Iraq used the jets to attack Iran's oil terminals on Kharg Island.

Confirming the report of the sale for the first time on Oct. 13, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said delivery of the jets had been postponed because of US and British pressure on the French Government.

Authoritative French sources say that French aid to Iraq is aimed at preventing it from being defeated in the three-year-old Iran-Iraq war. France's decision to sell Iraq the five Super-Etendard jets is an attempt to force Iran to sit down at the negotiating table and bring the war to an end.

Once Iraq obtains these sophisticated aircraft, it will be able to strengthen its air superiority over Iran and mobilize international public opinion to prompt mediations.

In the face of this turn of events, Iran has taken a very tough stand. Protest demonstrations have been held in Teheran. Ayatollah Khomeini has warned that if Iraq dares to strike at Iran's oil installa-

tions and especially the terminals on Kharg Island, Iran will blockade the Strait of Hormuz and the West will not get another drop of oil from the Gulf. Iran's Speaker of the Majlis, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has also said that "this is an international blackmail" and "Iran will never be cowed and the strait will never reopen without Iran's approval even if it would mean a third world war."

The increased tension has also made other oil-producing countries in the Gulf very nervous. The six member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have entrusted President Zayed bin al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates to go to Iraq to persuade Iraqi President Saddam Hussein not to use the sophisticated French aircraft to destroy Iran's oil installations. Meanwhile, some Gulf countries have also taken a tit-for-tat stand towards Iran. Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation, announced on Oct. 11 that if Iran does blockade the Strait of Hormuz his country will rise to defend freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

At present, 7 million barrels of oil are transported daily to Western countries via the Gulf, making it a vital strategic point. Thus, Western powers are extremely concerned about the



development of the situation there. The US State Department stressed that the United States has the responsibility to keep the shipping route in the Gulf clear, and will not let Iran do anything at will. On Oct. 9, three US warships, carrying 2,000 marines, left the Lebanese coast for the Indian Ocean to cope with any potential emergency.

With the plane incident still developing, what is the outlook?

The current situation is grave. Those who are well informed about Gulf affairs are not certain that a catastrophe is imminent.

However, the development of the war is independent of the people's will. If Iraq risks everything on a single venture and Iran makes a reckless move, the situation in the Gulf will become even more complicated.

—Xin Zong

## Central America

### Clashes go along with mediation

WITH the approval of the "Declaration of Objectives" by five Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica), the initiatives of the Contadora Group have entered a new stage, as Panama's Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega put it, since the document has laid a foundation for future negotiations and provides direct reference to a possible peace agreement.

However, officials in the US State Department do not think it represents a major step forward, though they said they expect the document would produce desired results. The reason is that the military actions in the area are not lessening, but escalating.

#### Conflict Intensified

Since September, the conflicts both in northern and southern Nicaragua have intensified. Anti-government offensives along the border with Honduras and Costa Rica have cut off the country's land communica-

tion with other Central American states. The bombing of Puerto Sandino and the oil pipeline there and the destruction of oil tanks at Puerto Corinto have put the country on fuel rationing. The rebels say that the aim of all these actions is to drive the country to the brink of bankruptcy.

It is noteworthy that the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) operating in southern Nicaragua has recently increased its activities and begun to use heavy weapons in the fighting. According to Commander Zero Eden Pastora, one of the organization's leaders, the ARDE has received a number of heavy and medium weapons which have been transferred secretly into Nicaragua.

Another anti-government group, which is based in Honduras, has concentrated its forces in an attack on Ocotal, a city of 40,000 in the north. This is the biggest rebel operation so far after a period of tranquillity.

Nicaragua has protested against Honduras and Costa Rica for backing Nicaragua's anti-government forces that are launching attacks from their territories. But the two countries have refused to accept the blame, accusing Nicaragua instead of sending troops into their territories. Relations between Nicaragua and the two have further worsened. Costa Rica has withdrawn its ambassador from Managua and asked the Organization of American States to hold a special meeting to discuss the issue.

While requesting the inclusion of the Central American situation on the agenda of the 38th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Nicaraguan Government has declared it will act against anti-government forces operating from neighbouring countries. Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega has described the area 500 metres from both the borders with Honduras and Costa Rica as "a potential combat zone." He acknowledged that the existence of such a combat zone near the borders has increased the danger of a more serious war, especially in the area bordering Honduras.

#### Revival of Condeca

On the other hand, a communique issued after a secret meeting in Guatemala of military chiefs of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala said the participants considered a reactivation of Condeca (Central American Defence Council) as necessary to confront the problems in Central America "in a co-ordinated, harmonious and unified manner." The meeting was also attended by Paul Gorman, the chief of the



## China's Position at UN on Disarmament

THE world situation over the past year has continued to be beset with tensions and turmoils as a result of the intense rivalry between the two superpowers. The arms race has become an important component in the superpowers' endeavour to realize their strategic targets.

Contrary to the wishes of the peoples of the world, the superpowers have shown no sincerity about disarmament, verbally professing a desire for disarmament only for the purpose of covering up their frenzied arms race.

China has consistently pursued a policy of safeguarding world peace and opposing hegemonism. China favours disarmament. It is for genuine disarmament and against sham disarmament. It opposes arms expansion under the camouflage of disarmament. To promote disarmament, China put forward at the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament a proposal for disarmament, outlining its objectives and measures for verification and negotiations. (See *Beijing Review*, No. 28, 1982, p. 11.)

**China's New Proposal.** To promote further nuclear disarmament, Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian recently proposed at the UN General Assembly that after the Soviet Union and the United States have taken concrete steps to stop testing, improving and manufacturing nuclear weapons and have agreed to reduce by half their nuclear weapons and means of delivery of all types, a widely representative international conference should be convened with the participation of all nuclear-weapon states to negotiate an overall reduction of nuclear weapons.

On the very day that China first successfully conducted its nuclear test, it undertook not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and

not to use them against non-nuclear weapon states and nuclear-free zones. China has developed a limited nuclear force for self-defence and for breaking the superpowers' nuclear monopoly and promoting nuclear disarmament.

**"Nuclear Freeze."** Concerning the proposals for a "nuclear freeze," China maintains that it is understandable that some non-aligned and neutral states have proposed a "nuclear freeze" to stop the superpowers in their nuclear arms race. But when one remembers that one nuclear power, which possesses a gigantic nuclear arsenal and is intensifying its efforts in every possible way to seek nuclear supremacy, has also proposed a similar "freeze," one cannot but ponder its real motives. "Freezing" alone, if not accompanied by concrete measures for reducing and destroying nuclear weapons, could, in effect, only legitimize and perpetuate the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers, which will enable them to maintain their nuclear hegemony and pose a menace to the people of various countries.

**Superpowers' Intermediate-Range Nuclear Missiles.** Concerning the superpowers' intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe and Asia, China holds that all nuclear weapons being reduced, no matter from where, should not be moved to other regions, but should be destroyed. The reduction of nuclear weapons should not be confined to the European region either. The Soviet Union should reduce by a wide margin the large number of intermediate-range nuclear missiles already deployed in Asia and the Far East, so that the grave threat to the countries in these regions may be lessened.

— Adapted from the statement made by Chinese representative Qian Jiaodong during the debate at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly

US Southern Command in Panama.

Condeca was formed by El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua in the early 1960s, and ceased to function after a brief border war between El Salvador and Honduras in 1969. In 1979, Nicaragua withdrew from the alliance following the Sandinista revolution. The revival of Condeca will in fact isolate Nicaragua. It will not help solve the problems in the area, but will increase tension. The Nicaraguan Government has already charged that the aim of the reacti-

vated military alliance is to counter both it and Salvadoran guerrillas.

The crux of the problem lies in the attitude towards the Nicaraguan Government. Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has pointed out that there are "profound differences" between the US Government and the Contadora Group in their attitudes towards the Nicaraguan Government. The United States will recognize only a Nicaraguan government formed after an election with the participation of all political factions in Ni-

caragua, while Nicaragua has repeatedly accused the United States of interfering in its internal affairs.

The peace-seeking Contadora Group has not slackened its efforts to promote peace in this turbulent area. Recently the member states made separate contacts in Madrid with the parties concerned to find new ways to solve the question. As no parties showed any sign of change in their positions in the contacts, the way to peace seems to be long and tortuous.

— "Beijing Review" News Analyst Ren Wenhui



# Working Towards Actual Equality Among Nationalities

— Interview with the Minister in Charge of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission



*Yang Jingren, of Hui nationality, holds the posts of Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Head of the Department of United Front Work of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and Minister in Charge of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission. He was recently interviewed by a "Beijing Review" correspondent about the tasks and current status of China's nationalities work. This article is based on that interview. — Ed.*

**Question:** Will you explain the major tasks of China's nationalities work?

**Answer:** If we are to build China into a highly democratic and culturally advanced modern socialist country, we must resolutely implement the nationalities policies of the Party and state, uphold the principles of equality among all nationalities and of national regional autonomy, strengthen national unity and enhance the cohesion of all nationalities in the motherland.

In the course of the modernization drive, the state will make enormous efforts to help the national minorities accelerate their economic and cultural construction, and train minority cadres and technical personnel so that the actual inequality between nationalities left by history will gradually be eliminated and every national minority can gradually get near to or catch up with the development of the Han nationality.

**Q:** What is the relationship between the realization of modernization in industry, agriculture, national defence, science and technology and the national minorities?

**A:** Briefly, the modernization urgently needs the national minorities, and the national minorities urgently need the modernization.

Ours is a multinational yet united socialist country. Though the population of the 55 minority nationalities accounts for only 6.7 per cent of the national total and though they are relatively underdeveloped economically and

culturally, they are spread over places making up 50 to 60 per cent of the total area. And most of these places are rich in natural resources and are frontier regions. In comparison, most of the Han nationality, 93.3 per cent of the national population and economically and technically more advanced, live in the remaining 40 to 50 per cent of the country. This is a basic characteristic resulting from the long historical development in China. Therefore, the question of how to combine the advantages of the Hans with those of the minority peoples stands out as a strategic question in our modernization drive and as a basic task in solving China's nationalities question.

Our grassland, forest and unreclaimed land, as well as much of the underground mineral deposits are mostly scattered in minority regions. Our modernization badly needs the support and participation of the national minorities in tapping and utilizing these resources. Nationwide modernization is impossible without the minority peoples or minority regions.

The fact that minority peoples have long been underdeveloped dictates modernization. Before liberation in 1949, the system of feudal landlords or large herdowners prevailed in more than 10 minority nationalities. The Tibetans, Dais and some other minority peoples still maintained feudal serfdoms, while in the Yi territory in Liangshan of Sichuan Province slavery was common. The system of primitive communes generally remained in a dozen or so national minorities.

After liberation, under the leadership of the Party and state and with the help of the Hans, these minority nationalities skipped one or more historical stages of development. They joined those minorities who had roughly the same economic composition as the Hans and entered the socialist stage. This was a tremendous stride covering hundreds or even thousands of years. This was also an enrichment and development of Leninism which maintains that



underdeveloped nationalities can, with the help of the proletariat of advanced nationalities who has seized political power, skip capitalism and directly enter socialism.

But minority nationalities under the socialist system are still underdeveloped economically and culturally, and actual inequality between nationalities resulting from the long historical development is still evident. However, the above-mentioned great leap forward makes it possible to rapidly develop the productive forces; to turn this into reality still requires another great leap forward in modernization in the decades ahead. In the course of the modernization drive, the state will provide enormous assistance for the minority peoples to speed up their economic and cultural development on the basis of self-reliance and thus help them gradually catch up with or approach the Hans.

That is one of the fundamental tasks of solving the nationalities question in the country.

**Q:** What actual inequality exists between nationalities?

**A:** In 1919, in the *Draft Programme of the RCP (B)*, Lenin said the proletariat, when it has taken power in a country, should help promote the actual equality of nationalities who had been previously oppressed. It was written down in 1921 in a resolution of the 10th Congress of the RCP (B), *On the Party's Current Task in the National Question*, that the actual inequality among nationalities must be eliminated.

All the nationalities in China have contributed to its long history and splendid culture and to building our great motherland. Before liberation, however, relations between nationalities were unequal because of the system

of national oppression. After liberation, this system was abolished and the principle of national equality was put into effect. Every nationality is entitled to the freedoms and equal development prescribed by the Constitution and other laws. Tens of minorities which were not recognized as nationalities by the Kuomintang government and had been powerless before liberation have now stepped into the state political arena. They have joined the Hans in starting a new life for themselves.

Nevertheless, their historical condition of underdevelopment could not be changed overnight. The extent to which they enjoy the rights to national equality and development is inevitably limited by their underdevelopment. They could not fully enjoy the rights prescribed by the Constitution and other laws as the Han nationality does. For instance, how could the minority peoples who have few intellectuals of their own enjoy the right to publish and to develop their own culture and education by their own efforts without the help from the Hans? How could they enjoy their right to develop their industry and transportation if they did not even have their own handicrafts? This actual inequality still remains a major problem in nationalities relationship even after our various nationalities have gained equal rights.

To eliminate this actual inequality between nationalities is a historical task throughout the stage of socialism. And the solution to the problem is to wholeheartedly help the minority peoples gradually develop their economy and culture. We shall help those nationalities in different stages of historical development enter socialism, and guarantee their rights of equality before the law and their rights of regional autonomy.

**Q:** What nationalities work has been done in the past few years?

**A:** Along with the shift in the emphasis of the Party's work at the end of 1978, there has been a shift of emphasis in nationalities work to serving the socialist modernization and to endeavouring to fulfil the previously mentioned tasks of domestic nationalities work in the new historical period.

Our major work includes: **First, putting things right.** During the tumultuous decade, the nationalities policies were severely affected and relations between nationalities were disrupted. In March 1978, the State Nationalities Affairs Commission resumed its work. Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party

Yunnan Province sends out its medics to the national minority habitations.





Central Committee in December that year, we have implemented the basic policies of national equality and unity, national regional autonomy, and respect for the customs and habits of the minorities and their freedom of religious beliefs. Large numbers of incorrect cases and historical problems in minority regions left over by the "cultural revolution" have been reversed and re-examined. As a result, tens of thousands of victimized cadres and citizens were rehabilitated. It is especially important that the prolonged misconception that the national question is in essence a class question has been corrected. It is now clear that after the socialist transformation, our national relations are basically the relations among the working people of different nationalities. On the previously mentioned facts and arguments, we hold that the national relationship in China is that of socialist equality, unity, and mutual help.

**Second, strengthening national unity.** In recent years, we have done a lot to publicize our nationalities policies and Marxist theories on the national question, and to overcome and prevent big-nationality chauvinism, mainly Han chauvinism, and local-national chauvinism. We also investigated disputes in national minority areas left over by the "cultural revolution" and settled some. Since last year, authorities in Xinjiang and 10 other provinces and autonomous regions have commended many people who promoted national unity. All these activities have led more and more people to understand that the Hans are inseparable from the minority peoples and vice versa. These activities have also further enhanced the powerful cohesion formed by the long efforts of all nationalities in founding and building the People's Republic of China.

We implemented in earnestness the policy of national regional autonomy, restored some of the original boundaries for regional autonomy and set up some new autonomous prefectures and counties. We trained and promoted large numbers of minority cadres and made arrangements for training minority technical personnel. As of the beginning of 1982, there were 1.03 million minority cadres in the national autonomous areas, of whom 30 per cent were scientific and technical personnel. Most of the top leading posts in the autonomous regions, prefectures and counties are occupied by minority cadres. In the Tibet Autonomous Region, for example, Tibetans and other minority people account for more than 80 per cent of the total cadres.

**Third, developing the economy of minority regions.** Since 1978, we reduced or exempted the taxes and state purchasing quotas for agricultural products in minority regions, thereby promoting economic growth there. We have also adopted flexible economic policies, introduced the production responsibility system, and implemented new policies to develop animal husbandry and forestry which make up a large proportion of the minority economies. The state has increased its special subsidies to the minority areas. In the past five years, production in these regions has been on the rise and the living standard of the local people has greatly improved.

The government organized economically advanced zones to give economic and technical help to the minority regions in recent years. Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Hebei, Jiangsu, Shandong, Zhejiang and Sichuan energetically helped the five autonomous regions in the country and some multinational provinces. From 1980-82, this kind of help was given to nearly 1,200 projects.

At the same time, China's democratic parties conducted technological consultations. According to statistics from five of the democratic parties, more than 1,800 experts, engineers and teachers will have gone to the minority regions to help 151 projects by the end of this year. The China Democratic National Construction Association, one of the democratic parties, and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce have trained 5,100 technicians and administrative personnel for the national minorities. These measures have proved to be important steps in developing minority economies.

**Fourth, promoting culture and education in the minority regions.** Schools for minority students seriously damaged during the "cultural revolution" have now been restored and further developed. Special considerations are being given to minority students when admitted into colleges. Minority student classes have been opened in some universities. The number of minority college students reached 53,000 last year, the largest enrolment since 1949. The state has concrete policies for recruiting more scientists and technicians for border areas and minority regions, including the provision of better benefits and higher wages for them. Recently, 2,100 advanced scientists and technicians were commended in minority regions, and certificates of citation were





**You Ren (right) is a young but warmhearted leader of Mongolian nationality in Sizi Banner of Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region.**

awarded to 320,000 scientists and technicians of Han and other nationalities who had worked for long periods in these regions.

In the past few years, we have held the largest theatrical festival for minority nationalities since 1949 and the first sports meet of traditional minority sports. Publications in Mongolian, Tibetan, Uygur, Korean and Kazakh came out in large quantities, and scientific studies of national minorities have made good progress.

It must be pointed out that since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee at the end of 1978, the Party Central Committee and the State Council have paid special attention to the nationalities work. After the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee was set up in February 1980, it successively discussed the work in Tibet, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Yunnan and Hainan Island. General Secretary Hu Yaobang and Premier Zhao Ziyang went to minority regions to study the ways of accelerating their progress and put forward important opinions on strengthening national unity and promoting the economic and cultural development there. This is an important factor in guaranteeing success in the nationalities work.

**Q:** What are the future plans for nationalities work?

**A:** Future work should be conducted in the

spirit of encouraging reforms and developing the country. Stress should be placed on strengthening national unity, promoting minority economies and tapping the intellectual resources in the minority regions. Unity is the prerequisite for construction; and development of construction is in turn the foundation of unity. They are complementary and inseparable.

To strengthen national unity, we shall emphasize education about nationalities, including the Marxist-Leninist views on the national question and our national policies. We shall check up on the implementation of the nationalities policies and solve the problems facing national relations. And at the same time we shall uphold the rights relating to equality of nationalities and national regional autonomy. Autonomous areas will gradually draw up their own autonomous laws and regulations.

We shall continuously stress minority economies when considering nationalities work as a whole and further implement economic policies in a flexible way. We shall consider how to develop the resources of the minority regions in the interests of the whole nation, including the minority peoples, seek good results in the economic work and give special consideration to the characteristics of the minority peoples and their regions. We shall continue to organize our economically developed areas to aid the minority regions through economic and technological co-operation and consultation.

Great efforts will be made to develop minority education and culture and to encourage scientific studies in various fields of national minorities. Scientific and technical personnel, intellectuals and determined volunteers from the developed regions are encouraged to go and work in the frontier and minority regions to open up these territories and contribute their shares to building the country.

This year we will make a detailed study of the way to further strengthen, train and select minority cadres. This is the key to realizing socialist modernization in the minority regions.

Our nationalities work should contribute to the goal of quadrupling the 1980 gross output value of industry and agriculture by the end of this century. It should also contribute to gradually eliminating the actual inequality among nationalities left over by history. In the decades to come, we will do our best to diminish this inequality. Of course, we will go on to completely eliminate it in the end. □



# Development of China's Post And Telecommunications

— Interview with Wen Minsheng, Minister of Post and Telecommunications



*China will send a delegation to participate in the UN World Communications Year activities to be held in Geneva from October 26 to November 1. Our correspondent interviewed Wen Minsheng, Minister of Post and Telecommunications, concerning China's post and telecommunications. — Ed.*

**Question:** 1983 is the world communications year. What activities have been organized in China to mark the occasion? What is the purpose of these activities?

**Answer:** China's post and telecommunications industry is still rather backward. Having been

listed as one of the key strategic areas in the country's modernization programme, it is now in a period of vigorous development. The United Nations' designation of 1983 as world communications year will greatly promote the development of post and telecommunications in China.

First of all, the newspapers have carried many reports on the world communications year, and have printed many articles on postal and telecommunication sciences, so as to get people throughout the country to become more interested in the post and telecommunications industry. We have sponsored a youngsters' photo and painting competition to select outstanding works to participate in the world-wide contest to be held in Geneva as one of the world communications year activities. We have also organized more than 100,000 young people and children to visit post and telecommunications enterprises and attend lectures on post and telecommunications sciences. In addition, we have held various kinds of academic seminars, which have strengthened the co-ordination between the railway, air service, broadcasting and meteorological departments and the post and telecommunications departments. We will send a delegation to attend the international conference in Geneva, so that we can exchange professional and technical experience with our counterparts from other countries and draw upon their advanced experience to improve our work.

**Q:** What is the state of China's post and telecommunications now?

**A:** About 2,500 years ago, courier horses and carts appeared in China. In 1877 and 1878, the Qing government began to run official telecommunications and postal undertakings. However, the development was slow and little had been achieved in the 70-odd years prior to 1949. When the People's Republic was founded, there was only one post office within 370 square kilometres. In the cities, there were only 310,000 telephone exchanges under the management of the post and telecommunications departments,

## About China's Technology In Telecommunications

CHINA has now established its own post and telecommunications industry and scientific research institutes. Under the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, there are 29 factories and two academies (encompassing about a dozen research institutes). These factories and research institutes have mastered almost all the switching technique of analogue telecommunications and the technique of large-capacity transmission, and can produce equipment in fairly large quantities. In addition, China has almost acquired a solid foundation in the research and production of advanced digital communications equipment. For instance, it is now able to produce cross-bar local telephone exchanges with a capacity of more than 10,000 lines, large-capacity coded cross-bar toll telephone exchanges, 1,800-channel coaxial cable carrier systems and 960-channel microwave systems. It also has been able to produce 30- and 120-channel PCM systems. Medium-capacity stored programme-controlled automatic message transmitting systems, electronic teleprinters and Group 2 subscriber-to-subscriber facsimile machines are becoming more popular. Satellite telecommunication ground station equipment has been developed. The research on 1,800-channel microwave systems, 4,300-channel cable carrier systems and short wavelength optical fibre systems will be completed soon.



of which only 200,000 were automatic ones. In 13 provinces, there were no automatic telephones at all. At that time, there were just over 2,800 simple single- and three-channel long-distance carrier cables and 3,000 telegram lines, most of which were in the big cities. Post and telecommunications facilities were simply non-existent in the countryside.

After more than 30 years of construction since the founding of the People's Republic of China, great development has been made in China's post and telecommunications. A national postal and telecommunication service network, centred in Beijing and linking all the cities and the countryside, has been built. Compared with 1949, the number of post and telecommunications offices in the whole country in 1982 increased about 90 per cent. Telephone exchanges under the management of the post and telecommunications departments in the cities increased more than eight-fold. In the countryside, 2.5 million telephone sets were installed. Long-distance telephone lines went up nine-fold, and telegram lines, three-fold. Long-distance telephone calls can now be made automatically or semi-automatically through cable or microwave lines in 24 provincial capitals. Telephone lines have reached 95.8 per cent of the country's communes (townships) and 53.9 per cent of its production brigades (villages).

International post and telecommunications contacts have steadily increased. At present, China has established direct postal relations with 111 countries and regions and established more than 900 through telecommunications lines with 46 countries and regions. Moreover, except for Israel, south Korea and South Africa, it also has established satellite telecommunications contacts with all parts of the world via three satellite ground stations in Beijing and Shanghai and the international telecommunications satellite over the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

**Q:** What are the major problems at present?

**A:** Although great developments have been made, they still fall short of the increasing demands the nation's economy and social life place on the post and telecommunications industry.



The telecommunications building in Shenyang.

There are a few basic problems. There are not enough communications lines and equipment, and in particular local telephone lines are not currently in wide use. In Beijing, for example, the usage rate is only about 5 per cent. What is more, the quality of phone connections leaves much to be desired. The technological level of most of the telecommunications equipment is low, and one-third of the telephone exchanges in the cities (mainly those in the county seats) are operated by hand. Nearly all the long-distance telephone calls and telegrams are hand-operated, and the efficiency is rather low. The major reasons for all this are a poor material foundation, insufficient investment, outdated technology and shortcomings in management.

**Q:** What is the major goal for the development of post and telecommunications by the year 2000?

**A:** In order to ensure the realization of the strategic objective of quadrupling the annual gross output value of industrial and agricultural production by the end of the century, the post and telecommunications industry must develop at a somewhat quicker pace than the national economy as a whole.

We plan to build a high-quality and high-efficiency modern post and telecommunications network, with a high level of service, by the year 2000.

Building telephone networks is the key for development. In the big cities, we will gradual-



ly popularize the use of programme-controlled digital telephone exchanges and digital transmitting equipment, and in the smaller cities we will popularize the use of cross-bar telephone exchanges, so as to realize telephone automation in the urban areas (including county seats).

The long-distance telephone networks will gradually be improved. There will be a fairly big increase in the number of long-distance cables and automatic toll telephone exchanges. Automatic and semi-automatic dialing will be adopted for most long-distance inter-city telephone calls.

Big progress will also be made in the means of transmission. Great efforts will be made to develop new-type urban telephone cables and actively promote the use of long-wave and shortwave optical fibre cables. In the field of long-distance telecommunications services, efforts will be made to develop cable carrier equipment and microwave telecommunications equipment with even larger capacities, as well as digital transmission techniques and satellite telecommunications services.

Data communication is also one of the areas which we will develop energetically. At present, we have started low and medium-rate data communications services with subscriber telegram networks and the public automatic telephone networks. For the next step, we will develop regional exchange networks, so as to connect computers and other terminals with different bit rates, codes and protocols in a certain area.

China has a large territory and its geographic conditions are complicated. In order to suit these conditions, we will put our own telecommunication satellite into orbit, and gradually develop our own domestic satellite telecommunications network. In the near future, we will solve the problem of telecommunications services for remote areas and meet the special needs of the various sectors of the national economy for telecommunications by renting transmitters from the International Satellite Organization.

**Q:** What measures have been adopted to ensure the realization of these goals?

**A:** Since 1982, the proportion of investment for the development of post and telecommunications out of the country's total investment has begun to increase. The post and telecommunications departments have been allowed to retain a larger portion of their profits and foreign exchange earnings to buy more equipment and



**Liang Yuqing, an outstanding operator working in directory inquiries for the Shanghai City Telephone Bureau.**

carry out technical renovation and transformation. The banks also have granted low-interest loans to help post and telecommunications departments import new technology and equipment.

The state also encourages various departments, localities and enterprises to establish post and telecommunications networks for special use. In the countryside, we try to combine local government investment with funds pooled by the subscribers and peasants in order to develop rural post and telecommunications under a unified plan and with standardized technology.

According to a state stipulation, the construction of urban telephone facilities has been incorporated into the overall plan for urban construction. Both the central and local governments will invest in these facilities. The profits earned from telephone services will not be handed over to the state, but will be retained by the post and telecommunications departments as a special fund for developing urban telephone facilities.

At present, we have also begun to build new satellite ground stations in some areas in order to start our own domestic satellite telecommunications services through renting channels on the international telecommunications satellites.

**Q:** Is there a need for international co-operation?

**A:** Of course. We will rely mainly on our own strength for the modernization of China's post



and telecommunications. At the same time, we will introduce some suitable advanced post and telecommunications equipment and technology from abroad. In this field, we welcome those from the post and telecommunications and eco-

nomic circles of friendly countries and regions to co-operate with us in the modernization of China's post and telecommunications industry under the principle of equality and mutual benefit. □

## Seminar on Archaeological Studies in Asia

by Our Correspondent Ling Yang

**A**T a regional conference held in Beijing and the famous ancient city of Xian last August, scholars from 10 Asian UNESCO member states reported on the archaeological research going on in their countries, exchanged experience and visited excavation sites, museums and historical places in China. These activities have deepened mutual understanding and friendship.

This was the first international seminar on archaeological studies held in the People's Republic and special attention was given to inspecting and commenting on current trends in Chinese archaeology. Dr. Xia Nai, Director of the Chinese Society of Archaeology and Honorary Director of the Institute of Archaeology under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, remarked, "This seminar will be an encouragement to the archaeological circles in China." This 73-year-old expert introduced his colleagues to the work going on in China, and discussed with them how to promote archaeological work in Asia (For excerpts from his speech, see p.23).

Asia was a cradle of world civilization. Many Asian countries have ancient cultures and long histories, which have played major roles in the formation and development of the world's civilization. Therefore, the development of archaeology in this continent is of paramount importance. Many participants in the seminar illustrated this point with their own examples.

**India:** Dr. Haribishnu Sarkar, Director of the Archaeological Survey of India, said archaeologists in his country began to make discoveries and survey monuments and sites back in 1784. The Indian Treasure-Trove Act of 1878 was one of the earliest pieces of legislation concerning ancient national treasures in the world. A large number of paleolithic sites and tools have been discovered in different parts of India. Stone implements of the mesolithic or late Stone Age have also been found throughout the country. A paddy husk impression discovered in a site in

Uttar Pradesh dating back to 7000-5000 B.C., the neolithic age, is the earliest known evidence of rice in India.

**Indonesia:** Uka Tjandrasasmita, Director for the Protection and Development of Historical and Archaeological Heritage, told the seminar that since 1976, some 2,000 ancient temples, fortresses, caves, churches, palaces and buildings, and 12,000 objects of historical and archaeological value have been registered and documented in his country. Included in the heritage protection programme was the restoration of Borobudur Temple, which was completed last February. The project was sponsored by UNESCO.

Great headway has been made in prehistoric archaeology, studying the traditional burial system, forms of worship, settlement systems and use of tools. In classical archaeology, advances have been made in the study of city planning, architecture, iconography and other aspects of social life. Research in Islamic archaeology and paleoanthropology has also enjoyed great success.

**Japan:** Prof. Hiroshi Kanaseki, of Tenri University, said that archaeology was established as a modern science in Japan during the Meiji era (1868-1912). At present, more than 1,000 sites all over the Japanese archipelago dating from the late paleolithic era have been registered. Archaeologists have been very interested in the possibility that a relationship existed between the Japanese islands and the Chinese mainland during this period.

As for the neolithic era, it is now generally accepted that pot shards unearthed from the Fukui cave in Nagasaki Prefecture are the oldest in Japan. Whether the technique used to make the pottery was invented in the Japanese islands or was introduced from the Asian continent has been discussed by archaeologists. They have been examining the earliest phase



of Chinese neolithic culture with keen interest, in the hope of finding a clue.

**DPRK:** Professor Kim Song-Nam, Chief of the Institute of Archaeology, told his colleagues that the excavation and research of many sites since the 1960s showed there were already human beings living in Korea in the paleolithic age, 600,000 years ago. The Koreans began to make permanent settlements during the neolithic age, from 5000 B.C. to the end of 3000 B.C., when they engaged in agriculture, hunting and fishing.

Prof. Kim said Korean archaeologists are now able to scientifically explain how the ancient people carried on production during the Bronze Age, from 2000 B.C. to 1000 B.C. All these discoveries will help form a systematic understanding of the long development of Korean culture and its special features during different times.

**Malaysia:** Adi bin Taji Taha, Curator of the National Museum of Kuala Lumpur, said archaeology in his country at the southern tip of the Asian continent is still in its infancy. Researchers have been able to trace the long succession of cultures since the Stone Age. Moreover, up to now, archaeology has been limited to studying history, excluding anthropology entirely. Preservation of ancient objects has centred on Hindu and Buddhist relics, and at least 50 ancient structures have been discovered.

**Nepal:** Mrs. Riddhi Pradhan, research officer at the Department of Archaeology, said that since its establishment in 1953, the department has made continuous efforts to excavate, explore and conserve the ancient site of Lumbini (10,500 square metres). The site dates from 600 B.C. to the medieval period. An Asokan pillar has been found there with an inscription recording the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha at a place nearby Lumbini Grama. In 1980, archaeologists working in the Kathmandu Valley, which is famous for its medieval art and architecture, found the upper left molar of *Ramapithecus*, a hominid which lived 11 million years ago. This finding is the oldest in Asia, and the second oldest in the world. It suggests that Nepal can trace its history to the pre-historic period.

**Pakistan:** Dr. Mohammad Sharif, Superintendent of Archaeology of Southern Circle in Pucca Fort, Hyderabad, noted that although Pakistan is a new country, it "comprises some of the areas which were the cradle of one of the most ancient civilizations of the world." Archaeological finds show that the continuous presence of humans in Pakistan can be traced for 450,000 years. The foot-hills of Baluchistan had settlers more than

8,000 years ago, and all the elements of early urban life had already come into existence in the Indus Valley by about 3500 B.C. The Indus civilization, which lasted for about 2,000 years, and later the Bronze and Iron Ages also add to the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan.

**Sri Lanka:** Dr. W.S. Karunaratne, Commissioner of Archaeology, told his audience that his government, in co-operation with UNESCO, has worked out a suitable plan of action for the protection, preservation, restoration and presentation of the outstanding monuments and sites within the cultural triangle formed by the three old capitals on Sri Lanka. The earliest evidence of settlement is an agricultural sample which was obtained by scientific analysis of excavated cereal. It dates back 1,100 years.

Concerning the conservation of cultural property, which is considered a subject of archaeological study, Dr. Karunaratne happily declared, "We have been able to solve most of our current conservation problems." He mentioned particularly that "methods have been developed in Sri Lanka for the conservation of cultural property which is subject to the damaging influence of its tropical climate."

**Thailand:** Dr. Plitdet Pholgerddee, head of the Archaeological Department of Silpakorn University in Bangkok, said from excavations which trace back 5,000 years in Ban Chien (500 kilometres northeast of Bangkok), archaeologists have surmised that bronze was produced in this area six centuries earlier than in any other parts of the world. Bronze and iron were also married to fashion bimetallic tools and utensils in Ban Chien hundreds of years before this technology was invented in China.

He said Thailand's archaeologists are currently working on the origins of man. They are trying to find out why the remains of *homo erectus* (upright men who appeared 500,000 years ago) have been found in Java and China but not, so far, in Thailand, which has been postulated as an area of cultural contacts between India and either Indonesia or China. He hoped that solutions could be found through future expeditions.

After reading these interesting materials, I found it easy to understand the views of both Mr. Yasushi Kono of UNESCO and the Nepalese delegate, who believe the cultural heritage of various countries in Asia "belongs to the common heritage of mankind as a whole." This point of view was also shared by many others attending the seminar. □



# A General Survey of China's Archaeological Work

by Xia Nai

ARCHAEOLOGY first made its appearance in the Northern Song Dynasty in the 11th century, when it was called Jin Shi Xue (studies of bronzes and stones). But the modern archaeology of China—a science which reconstructs ancient human society through the arrangement and study of excavated sites and cultural relics—did not come into being until the 1920s. The discovery of the skull of Peking Man [1929] and the excavations of the Yin ruins in Anyang in Henan Province [started in 1928] were among the earliest major findings.

With the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, China's archaeology entered a new stage. Major sites were excavated one after another. Many Chinese and foreign archaeologists refer to the second half of the 20th century as the golden age of Chinese archaeology.

The Institute of Archaeology, under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, specializes in archaeological investigation, excavation and research. It has played an important role in promoting China's archaeology by giving guidance to workers in the field in various parts of the country.

Another important organization is the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoan-

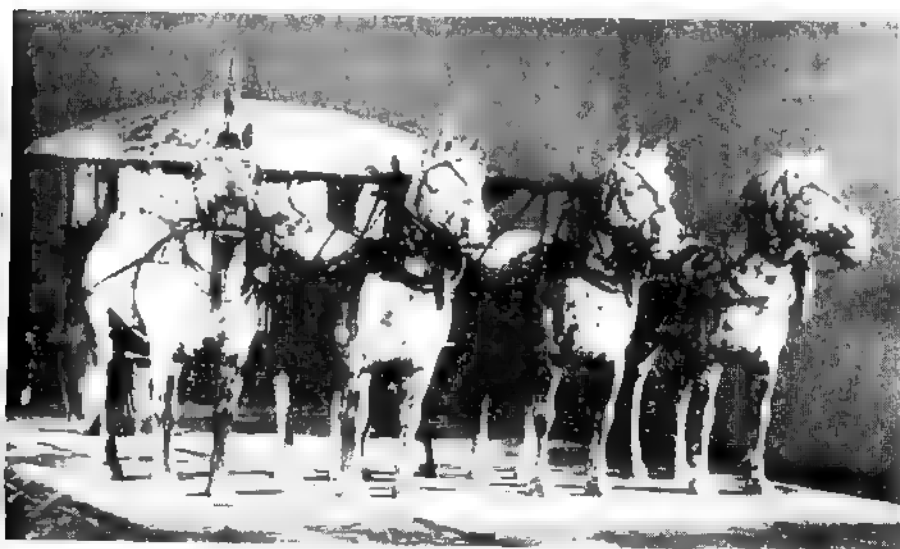
thropology, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which conducts research into the early Stone Age.

Thanks to the efforts of these institutions and archaeologists all over the country, we have discovered such early human cultures and skeletal remains as Lantian Man [650,000-800,000 years ago], the Cishan Culture [c. 5400 B.C.], Peiligang Culture [c. 5500 B.C.] and Hemudu Culture [c. 4800 B.C.] of the early New Stone Age. We have also excavated such important burial sites as the tomb of Lady Hao, the only well-preserved tomb of a slave-owner discovered since the Yin ruins were unearthed 50 years ago. Lady Hao was a royal concubine during the Shang Dynasty.

Other sites include the tomb of Marquis Yi of the State of Zeng in Hubei [late 5th century B.C.], the mausoleum of Prince Zhong Shan in Hebei [late 4th century B.C.] and the army of terracotta warriors, horses and actual weapons in the funerary pits near the mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang (the first Qin emperor) in the 3rd century B.C. In the Han tombs excavated in Mawangdui, Hunan Province, there are graves of a marquis and his family from the later part

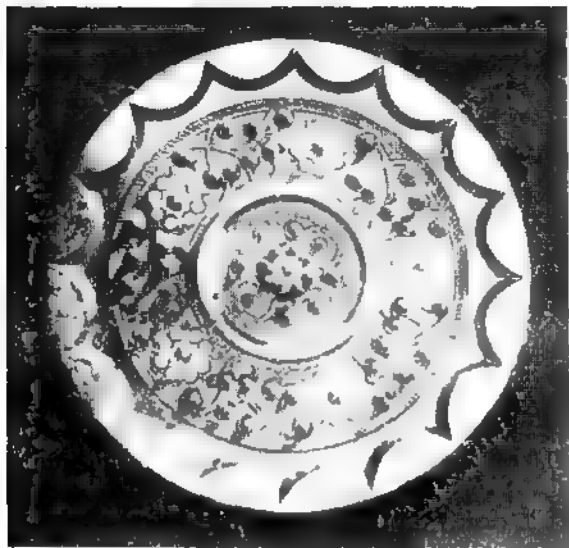
of the 2nd century B.C., with the body of a woman and many of her belongings still intact. In the Han tomb in Mancheng, Hebei Province, which belonged to a marquis and his wife who died in the year one, an exquisitely made jade burial suit sewn with fine gold and silver threads was discovered. The burial excavations date right down to the 17th century Ming Tombs on the outskirts of Beijing. These discoveries have attracted widespread attention both at home and abroad.

In the excavation work, we stress the scientific spirit, i.e., meticulous handling, careful observation and keeping detailed records. This is one of the reasons for our success.



Bronze chariot unearthed in 1980 in Shaanxi Province, cast 2,200 years ago. Height of the horses: 90.2-93.2 cm., length: 110-112.8 cm., weight: 177-212.97 kg.





A Han dynasty bronze mirror (diameter 18 cm) recently excavated in Shanxi Province while digging an open-cast coal mine.

Cultural relics and ancient sites are under state protection. The Bureau of Cultural Relics, under the Ministry of Culture, is in charge of the day-to-day administrative work for the protection of these ancient treasures.

It has set up a scientific and technical research institute for the protection and repair of cultural relics and ancient buildings. The State Council has listed 242 ancient sites, tombs, buildings and cave temples as key units under state protection. Twenty-four cities, including Beijing and Xian, were designated as China's famous cultural-historical cities. A number of important historical sites and relics have also been put under provincial or city protection.

The Law of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Cultural Relics promulgated in November 1982 stipulates that all cultural relics not yet excavated, and all relics and historical sites under the care of government organizations or state-owned enterprises and organizations belong to the state. Those collected by individuals are protected by law. Archaeological excavations can be conducted only after approval of an application. Moreover, cultural relics leaving China are subject to rigorous restrictions. These are important for the protection of China's cultural and historical heritage.

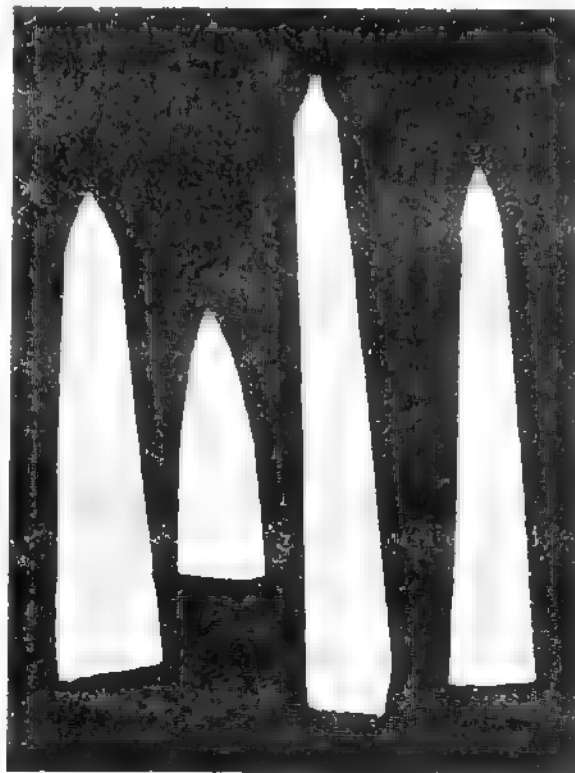
One of the reasons our archaeological work has been so successful is that China has a rich cultural heritage. Another major factor is that

for some time we have devoted our attention to working in the field. Generally, we conduct two types of field work: One type is carried out in co-ordination with construction work, and is of an emergency nature. Owing to the scale of capital construction, excavation of this type constitutes a large proportion of our work. The other type is conducted according to research projects planned by archaeologists.

In the excavation of major historical sites and tombs, we generally strive for extensive exposure, in order to reveal their overall aspect.

Since scholars base their research on uncovered relics, the restoration and preservation of unearthed objects is very important.

For instance, silk fabrics and lacquer-ware in good condition were found in the Chu and Han tombs in the south. They looked fresh, and their colours were bright when first taken out of the tombs. But the colours would quickly fade on exposure to the light. We have achieved satisfying results in checking this fading by adopting a number of methods, including the use of high polymers. To repair the bronze-ware found in the tomb of Lady Hao in the Yin ruins in central China, we tried



Oaths of allegiance of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-221 B.C.) carved on stones unearthed in Henan Province in 1980.



to find out the method of casting, and were successful. Restoration of the jade burial suit sewn with gold thread made it possible for us to understand the ranking system of the Han Dynasty, expressed in the various types of jade suits. Other remarkable achievements are the restoration of the leather armour unearthed from the tomb of Marquis Yi of the State of Zeng in central China, and the metal armour of the Western and Eastern Han Dynasties. Recently the lacquer-ware from a Western Zhou tomb in Liulihe near Beijing was cleaned, repaired and restored. And the bamboo scripts unearthed from the Yinque Hill in Linyi, Shandong Province, were mended, arranged and compiled as *The Strategy and Tactics of Sun Wu*<sup>1</sup> and *The Strategy and Tactics of Sun Bin*.<sup>2</sup>

In spite of all these efforts, many problems concerning the preservation of unearthed objects remain to be solved, or solved more satis-

1 and 2: Both strategists of the Spring and Autumn (770-476 B.C.) and the Warring States Periods (475-221 B.C.). Sun Wu as considered the earliest and the most outstanding strategist. — The notes are ours.

factorily. And there are still problems to be studied. For instance, we are not entirely sure why the articles and corpses unearthed in some tombs are in better condition than those in others.

The results of research are introduced to Chinese and foreign readers through various publications. *Thirty Years of Archaeological Work*, recently edited and published by the Cultural Relics Publishing House, is a review of archaeological achievements over the last 30 years, with articles contributed by every province and major city.

*Archaeological Discovery and Research in New China* edited by the Institute of Archaeology will be published soon.

The ranks of archaeologists have grown from a few dozen in the early post-liberation days to nearly a thousand today.

At present 11 universities offer courses in archaeology, with a total of 100 graduates every year. The Institute of Archaeology and Beijing University also offer postgraduate courses. □

## College Students' Vacation

# Travel Along the Ancient Silk Road

by Song Houqing

**D**URING the summer holidays this year, some students from Lanzhou University in northwest China bicycled 4,414 kilometres along the Silk Road — the only road used for friendly exchanges between ancient China and outside states in the western regions. The students pedalled and studied for 43 days along this famous route.

Opened before 100 B.C., the Silk Road began in Changan, an ancient capital and now Xian in Shaanxi Province, ran west through Gansu Province and into Xinjiang. From there it continued westward through Central and West Asia, north Africa and on to Europe.

The group consisted of 34 students, post-graduates and teachers from 18 specialities in 12 departments, including geology, geography,

history, biology, economics, Chinese language, physics, chemistry and philosophy. One teacher and four students were women.

The group leader was Wu Jingsheng, a graduating student from the history department. The previous summer, he spent 90 days bicycling more than 10,000 kilometres along the Silk Road.

Before the students started their journey, professors at the university helped them decide their route of travel and study, and briefed them on the natural conditions, history, nationalities and customs and habits along the Silk Road.

On their way, the students climbed over nine mountains, crossed a dozen rivers and overcame many other difficulties. They travelled about 2,000 kilometres through a sandy waste land, which took them about 20 days. In the desert, the air was dry, the temperature reached

The author is a Xinhua correspondent stationed in Lanzhou.



more than 50 degrees centigrade, there were no trees to provide shade, and they did not pass by a single village within a radius of 200 kilometres. While travelling in the mountains, they were caught in windstorms on many occasions.

Although the long and difficult journey exhausted the students physically, the beautiful, changing scenes and the rich and colourful life they saw on the way filled them with joyful energy and overcame their fatigue.

When they arrived at the foot of the Yanzhi Mountains (in Gansu Province), the yellow rape flowers were in full bloom. Their perfume combined with the buzz of bees and the sight of horses grazing in the distance to form a beautiful picture.

In the highland grazing ground on the Wuyao Mountains (in Gansu Province), local young people and herdsmen put up tents and treated the students to sweet milk tea. They sang and danced together under the bright sun.

At the Jiayuguan Pass, the west end of the Great Wall, students gave an evening party together with about 200 local young people. The sounds of their singing and dancing around camp fires temporarily rolled back the deep silence of the desert.

On their way, they visited various museums and historical sites, collected many samples and took quite a few pictures. They also discovered some cultural relics.

A student from the history department said that what they saw and heard showed that the areas along the Silk Road had been quite pros-

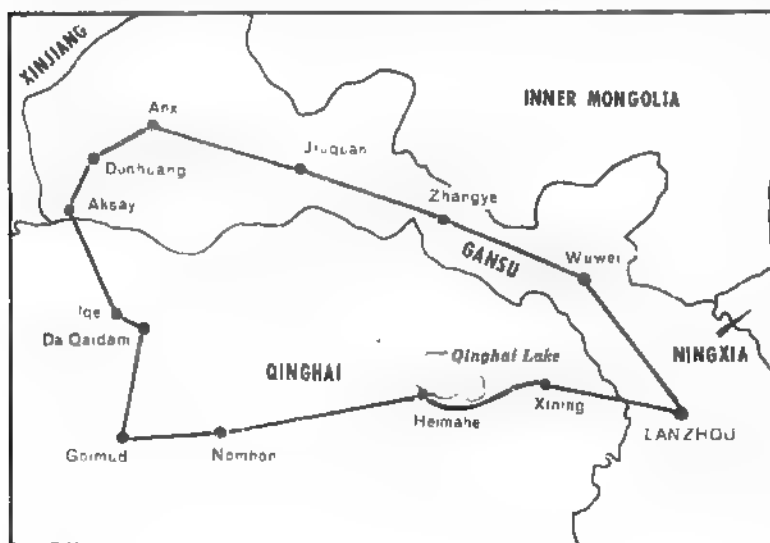
perous for a long time. However, they gradually began to lag behind with the later development of sea transport. But the students found the Silk Road is still of great value for archaeological and historical study.

Students from the departments of geography, biology and economics investigated the climate, environment, vegetation and agricultural development in the Hexi Corridor (a strip of land on the west bank of the Huanghe [Yellow] River in northwestern Gansu, about 1,000 kilometres from east to west and 100-200 kilometres from north to south). In the past, there were large tracts of forest and grassland and many lakes in this area. Later, much of the natural vegetation was destroyed and many lakes dried up, some completely. Large areas of once-arable land were covered by sand. This problem has now aroused the attention of the public and many measures have been taken to restore the ecological equilibrium. Great progress has been made in fixing the shifting sand dunes by planting trees and grass. Now, forests to hold the sand and protect farmland can be seen everywhere in the Hexi Corridor. However, the trees, mainly poplars, have been planted in small clusters, with little grass and shrubs planted around them. After their investigation, the students concluded that simultaneous planting of grass, shrubs and groups of trees would better extend the vegetation cover.

The students also decided that although agricultural production in the Hexi Corridor has developed greatly since liberation in 1949, it is still rather backward compared with many other areas of the country. The major problems

were that commodity production was not developed and not enough variety of crops, especially cash crops, were grown. In fact, the longer sunny spell and greater variation in temperature here are beneficial to the growth of cotton, sugarbeets, melons and fruit trees.

At present, the land and rich solar resources in the area have not been fully used. In addition, the processing of farm products needs to be further developed. All this shows that the Hexi Corridor still has great potential for agricultural production.







Jiayuguan Pass, the west end of the Great Wall.

With continuous social and economic development, great changes have taken place in the customs and living habits of people along the ancient Silk Road. The students visited Xuejiawan, a village of about 200 people 100 kilometres northwest of Lanzhou. In the old society, the people there were called the "Gypsies of China." At that time, life for them was extremely hard. They lived in a few dilapidated houses and temples, and roamed about telling fortunes. They left home after spring sowing and went back before autumn harvest. They would wander all over China, the men with birdcages or flutes and the women on the backs of donkeys or walking with sticks. They went as far as the Bohai coast in the east and the Ili area in Xinjiang in the west. Some women even made these trips when they were pregnant. They only passed on their secret of fortune telling to their sons and daughters-in-law. They had their own code word, which was impossible for others to understand. Now, many new and spacious buildings have been put up in the village. The houses are fitted with electric lights and well furnished. The villagers live better, more stable lives, and only few still earn their living by fortune telling.

The students visited the Alley Museum in Shandan (in northwestern Gansu). It is named for Rewi Alley, a New Zealander born in 1897 who moved to China in 1927 and has lived here ever since. Alley has made great contributions to the Chinese people. In 1942, he set up the Beilie Technical School in Shuangshipu, Shaanxi Province, which moved to Shandan in 1944. The college has trained many technical personnel for China. The students were deeply touched. They said, "Rewi Alley came to China

when he was only 30. He is more than 80 now. When we see how a foreigner can devote his whole life to the Chinese people, we are more obliged to dedicate our youth to the motherland."

The students also visited the Mogao Grottoes. The carving in these grottoes began in 366 A.D., and proceeded until the 14th century. Forty-five thousand square metres of murals and 2,100 colour Buddhist statues in 492 caves are still well preserved. These works depict China's social life from the sixth century to the 14th century, as well as the development of Chinese sculpture and carving. All the students felt proud to see the brilliant culture of their motherland in ancient times.

"Our motherland is beautiful everywhere and her people are all hospitable," said group leader Wu Jingsheng. For instance, when the group first decided to make their trip by bicycle, the Tianjin No. 2 Bicycle Plant sent them 30 brand-new *Hongqi* (Red Flag) bicycles, as well as two workers to go with them and to take care of repairs and maintenance. The Baiyin Knitwear Factory in Gansu made a suit of sportswear for each group member. This support and help, received from all sectors, made their trip and studies far easier and infinitely more pleasant.

The group started their journey from Lanzhou, went across Wuwei, Zhangye, Jiuquan, Anxi and Dunhuang to Aksay. They entered Qinghai Province from Iq, and continued eastward through Da Qaidam, Golmud, Nomhon, Qinghai Lake, Heimahe and Xining, and back to Lanzhou again. □



## SPORTS

*Weightlifter sets  
new world record*

Ever since Chinese weightlifter Chen Jingkai set his first world record in 1956, 20 Chinese weightlifters have held world titles. Wu Shude, the "diminutive strongman," is another of China's outstanding weightlifters. In four years he has improved on the world junior weightlifting record six times, and bettered the world record three times.

Wu Shude, 24 years old and weighing 56 kilogrammes, was born into a worker's family in Nanning in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Wu began lifting weights at the age of 13, when he was picked by a coach at the sparetime sports school in Nanning. But the hard training exhausted him. Whenever Wu saw the barbells, he would feel worried, and often cut his training class. However, the coach thought Wu had a good physique for weightlifting, and was unwilling to part with him. He went to Wu's house again and again, and finally persuaded him and his parents to continue his training. Although Wu's family of seven was not well-off at the time, they always did their best to feed Wu very well. Through the earnest efforts of his coach and the encouragement of his family and friends, he became more confident.

Wu began to hurry to the sparetime sports school after his

classes every day. In the gymnasium he worked very hard, paying no attention to how much sweat he shed. During winter training, he would lift an average of 20,000 to 30,000 kilogrammes every day.

In July 1978, at 19 years old, Wu Shude went to Greece as a member of the Chinese team competing in the Fourth World Junior Weightlifting Championships. At that time, he was in the 52-kg weight class. When he lifted 92.5 kilogrammes in the snatch event, many weightlifters in his class were eliminated from the competition. Only Wu Shude, a weightlifter from Bulgaria, and one from the Soviet Union were left. When the weight was raised to 100 kilogrammes, only Wu Shude succeeded in snatching the barbell. Finally, he took the world junior record in his class by lifting 102.5 kilogrammes.

Wu Shude set five world junior records in the next year. However, his success did not make him complacent. He wanted to set the world record.

Confidence was the prerequisite for his success. On April 5, 1980, his wish to improve the world record came true at last. At the national weightlifting championships held in Nanning, he succeeded in snatching 112 kilogrammes, breaking the world record in that event for the 52-kg weight class. At the Asian Weightlifting Championships held in Japan the following year, Wu set a new world record by lifting 126.5 kilogrammes in the snatch event for the 56-kg weight class. But his success was tempered by misfortune. He sprained his left wrist.

Although this injury dealt Wu a heavy blow, he was unwilling to give up while still in his prime. After a period of treatment, he immediately resumed a hard training schedule.

While Wu was receiving treatment, Soviet weightlifter Oksen Mirzoian erased his world record in Moscow by snatching 127.5 kilogrammes. It was a formidable challenge to Wu Shude.





It was expected to be a long time, possibly several years, before anyone could raise the world record by 0.5 kilogramme. Wu Shude was scheduled to participate in China's Fifth National Games in late August of this year. It would have been an excellent chance, but he had to put in a lot of hard training to be able to raise his own personal best by 1.5 kilogrammes.

At the weightlifting finals of the Games in Shanghai on August 31, Wu Shude succeeded in lifting 120 kilogrammes. When he stepped onto the platform for the second time, he wanted to snatch 128 kilogrammes. Tens of thousands of eyes were fixed on him. He stood calmly on the platform, took a deep breath, and snatched the world record back from the Soviet lifter. Many well-wishers congratulated him afterwards. He told them, "I won this victory by hard training and my confidence in bringing honour to my motherland. The 128-kilogramme record is by no means my maximum limit. I will continue to do my best."

## Boy writes gold medal letter

A thirteen-year-old student from Beijing, Wang Zhongqun, won the gold medal in the Universal Postal Union's 1983 international letter writing competition for young people.

The UNESCO jury chose Wang's letter from among entries from 37 countries. They noted that the letter, full of imagination, reflected the international awareness of its young author through its poetic style of writing.

Wang is the second Chinese

gold medal winner of this annual contest. The first was Zhao Shuang, who was awarded the medal in 1981.

This year's subject was "Postal Communication — A Link Between Countries." Following is the full text.

March 20, 1983

My little Eskimo friends,

How are you? It was me — a Chinese kid with yellow skin and black hair who received your letter addressed, "to the little one who loves the post." And when I got it I was so surprised to read, "from the North Pole." I thought, "Hey! Who on earth would write to me from the North Pole, a world of



Wang Zhongqun

snow and ice?" But after I read it, I knew. It was you, my little friends in Eskimo land.

In your letter you told me, "We are living so far from many other countries. We are living in a white world. The sky is white, the ice is white, the animals are white, and even our houses are white. How nice it would be if the post could be a colourful link through which all of our letters could be sent everywhere and bring us close together. With this link, our

white world would be dotted with colour."

I was greatly moved by your idea, because my father, mother and sister all work for the post office, and I also want to work there when I grow up. My parents told me the post office gets many letters from all over the world every day; even from Australia, a country of kangaroos, and from equatorial Africa. Most fly to China from countries in Europe and America. And a few days ago, we received your letter from the North Pole.

This postal link really is a beautiful link, which can be seen in tropical forests, on the warm plains, and even in your North Pole. It's very miraculous, isn't it?

Well, I have another interesting story to tell you. One night I dreamt I was sitting on the postal link, following the north wind whistling to the North Pole. I saw you there on your white coast, waiting for me and clapping your hands. The polar bears swimming in the water greeted me too. I got off the link and went with you to a glistening igloo, where everyone was singing and dancing, and a polar bear was playing the accordion.

My little Eskimo friends, we welcome you to come and see China. Just like the people in your white world, the people here are brave, hardworking and friendly. I would be so glad to have you come to me on this postal link. When you visit, I will take you walking along the Great Wall, and out to enjoy the beauty of West Lake. Come, my little friends! I am waiting for you; the Chinese people are waiting for you.

Wishing you a pleasant journey,

Yours,  
Wang Zhongqun



# BOOKS

## Science in Ancient China

### Ancient China's Technology and Science

Compiled by: the Institute of History of Natural Science under the Chinese Academy of Sciences,

Published by: Foreign Languages Press,

Distributed by: China Publications Centre (Guoji Shudian),

Price: Hardcover RMB 4.40 yuan, paperback RMB 3.70 yuan.

Today, the history of China's science and technology has become the subject of independent, worldwide study. Many scholars, both Chinese and foreign, have established their reputations through their dedication to this field of study. Among them is Dr. Joseph Needham, a noted British scholar, who in 1954 published his great book, *Science and Civilization in China*.

Equally successful are many Chinese scholars, whose achievements have attracted world attention. The most outstanding are Zhu Kezhen, who achieved many successes in meteorological study, Li Yan, who made great contributions in cataloguing ancient mathematics books, Zhang Hongzhao, who excelled in geological study, Liu Xianzhou, who did valuable research in mechanical engineering, Chen Zhen, who examined materials dealing with the history of biology, Liang Sicheng, who made a systematic study of ancient architecture, Shen Chongwen who made an overall investigation of ancient

costumes, and Xia Nai, who approached ancient China's remarkable scientific and technological achievements from the perspective of archaeological studies.

*Ancient China's Technology and Science*, published by the Foreign Languages Press in April this year, records the results of studies in this field both at home and abroad. Most of its authors are middle-aged scholars, trained after the founding of New China. Presented as part of the *China Knowledge Series* published by the press, the book will broaden the readers' knowledge about many areas of ancient China's scientific and technological progress. Discussions include the 3,000-year-old *Si Mu Wu Ding*, a bronze cooking vessel of the Shang Dynasty (c. 1600-1100 B.C.) weighing 875 kg; the pile-weave fabrics dating back to 200 B.C. unearthed from a Han Dynasty tomb at Mawangdui in Hunan Province; the earliest compass in the world, called a *sinan* (south-pointing ladle); the world's oldest vegetable-fibre paper, *Baqiao* paper; the oldest double-stage rockets in the world, called *Huo Long Chu Shui* (fiery dragon emerging from water); block printing of *Jin Gang Jing* (a Buddhist scripture) from 900 A.D. during the Tang Dynasty; the catapult used to hurl gunpowder packages in 1000 A.D. and the Great Wall, which has been called one of the world's ancient architectural wonders.

Far beyond simply enumerating these achievements, which

are recognized as the pride of all mankind, the book also explains how they were invented and produced in ancient China. In addition, the book recounts the achievements of ancient Chinese researchers in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, biology, agronomy, pharmacology, metallurgy, mechanics, architecture, transportation, communications and textile production.

The numerous ancient documents and relics unearthed in recent years have provided researchers in the history of China's science and technology with rich first-hand information. It was on the basis of this kind of thorough study of original materials, as well as the achievements of foreign specialists in the field, that the authors completed this valuable book.

Although what the book covers are achievements made in ancient times, Dr. Mao Yisheng, Vice-President of the China Science and Technology Association, said in the preface he wrote for it, "A look at modern achievements in science and technology often reveals footprints of predecessors who closely approached modern aims. The new is in fact brought into existence by sorting through the old. The facade of the new mansions may be different, but the materials used are invariably from familiar sources."

Rich in content, the book is also distinguished by its pictures and illustrations. A chronology of Chinese dynasties, an English-Chinese bibliography of ancient Chinese documents, an English-Chinese glossary and a general index complete the work.

—Chen Yousheng



## ART PAGE

Yearning for . . . (this work won a gold medal at the Paris Salon of Arts in spring 1982).



### Zhang Dehua's sculptures

Zhang Dehua, an associate researcher at the sculpture studio of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, was born in 1931 in Qingdao, Shandong Province. She is among the first generation of women sculptors brought up in New China.

A serious artist, Zhang captures glimpses of real life in her distinctive work, combining boldness with reservation and vigour with rusticity. To attain truthfulness in creating different images, she is willing to brave all hardships, no matter whether it is going fishing on rough sea along with the fishermen or trekking far on to the Tibetan Plateau.



Old Hunter.



A Girl of the Zhuang Nationality.



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